

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 RSR-01 /141 W

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R 141040Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4673

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC POLAD

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, PFOR, PDEV, AF, PK, IR, UK, IN, UR

SUBJ: VIEWS OF PRESIDENT DAUD'S BROTHER ANDCONFIDANT NAIM

SUMMARY: SENATOR PERCY MADE A COURTESY CALL ON NAIM ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, AND WAS RECEIVED IN FONMIN'S OFFICE IN OLD FONMIN BUILDING. CONVERSATION DEALT PRIMARILY WITH FOUR TOPICS: AFGHAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND AMERICAN AID; HELMAND RIVER TREATY WITH IRAN; PASHTUNISTAN AND RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND CHRISTIAN CHURCE ISSUE. NAIM WAS BOTH EVASIVE AND NEGATIVE THROUGHOUT, SPEAKING MAINLY IN GENERALITIES AND AT TIMES APPEARING CONFUSED AND UNCERTAIN AS TO HIS FACTS, ALL IN MARKED CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS AIR OF CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ASSURANCE DISPLAYED IN HIS EARLIER MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR. END SUMMARY.

1. NAIM HAS NO OFFICIAL POSITION IN REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT BUT AS BROTHER AND CLOSE CONFIDANT OF PRESIDENT IS ASSUMED TO SPEAK WITH DAUD'S OWN AUTHORITY. NAIM OPENED MEETING BY EMPHASIZING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRONG FRIENDSHIP THAT HAD ALWAYS EXISTED BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN

AND US AND APPEALED FOR CONTINUED US ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION. SENATOR REMARKED THAT DAUD REGIME HAD RECEIVED FAVORABLE PRESS ON ITS INTEREST IN REVIVING NATION'S ECONOMY AND ASKED IN WHAT DIRECTION HAD GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO MOVE. HE POINTED OUT THAT OUTSIDE FRIENDS COULD ONLY ASSIST IF A COUNTRY WAS WILLING TO HELP ITSELF AND GAVE AS AN EXAMPLE FACT THAT NOW DISBANDED PARLIAMENT HAD REJECTED NEEDED TAX MEASURES AND DID NEW GOVERNMENT PLAN TO ACT MORE FORCEFULLY? NAIM'S REPLY WAS EVASIVE, CONCEDED THAT THERE WAS TOO MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RICH AND POOR BUT DWELLING ON NEED TO HAVE NO SUDDEN DISRUPTIONS. (IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT US HAD BEEN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN TAXATION AND REVENUE COLLECTION FOR MANY YEARS.) SENATOR PERCY MENTIONED A CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION PASHWAK THE PREVIOUS EVENING OVER THE NEED FOR INCREASED JOB-ORIENTED VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND NAIM'S REPLY WAS A GENERAL STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENTS NEEDS TO CREATE INCENTIVES FOR ITS PEOPLE.

2. ON HELMAN WATERS TREATY WITH IRAN, SENATOR PERCY COMMENTED THAT IRANIANS HAD MADE SEVERAL IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS AND CONGRATULATED AFGHANS ON THEIR NEGOTIATING SKILL. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE TREATY WAS A GOOD THING FOR AFGHANISTAN AND ASKED WHAT THE DAUD GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO DO ABOUT RATIFICATION. NAIM SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO KEEP ITS COMMITMENTS AND HE SAW NO OBSTACLES UNLESS SOMETHING ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE CAME UP, WHICH PRESIDENT DAUD WAS NOT STUDYING. (THIS STATEMENT APPEARS POSITIVE BUT NAIM HAD TO BE REMINDED BY WAHID ABDULLAH NOT ONCE BUT TWICE DURING CONVERSATION THAT PREVIOUS AFGHAN PARLIAMENT HAD ALREADY, AFTER LONG CONTROVERSY, RATIFIED TREATY AND ONLY EXECUTIVE APPROVAL WAS NOW REQUIRED).

3. SENATOR PERCY ASKED WHAT NEW GOVERNMENT'S AIMS WERE AS REGARDS TO PASHTUNISTAN AND NOTED DAUD'S INITIAL STATEMENT THAT PASHTUNISTAN WAS HIS ONLY FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEM. NAIM GAVE A RAMBLING ACCOUNT OF ARTIFICIAL AND UNSTABLE NATURE OF PAKISTAN TO BEGIN WITH AND PRESIDENT BHUTTO'S DECEPTIONS IN DEALING WITH FRONTIER AREAS. HE SAID THAT PAKISTAN HAD BEEN CREATED OUT OF DISSIMILAR PEOPLES AND THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CONFEDERATION MUST HAVE "REASONABLE FREEDOM TO CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY". ACCORDING TO NAIM, IT WAS BHUTTO HIMSELF, WHO, AS FOREIGN MINISTER, HAD PERSUADED YAHYA KHAN NOT TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS TO EAST PAKISTAN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THUS, HAD PRECIPITATED CRISIS THAT LED TO CREATION OF BANGLADESH. NAIM SAID THIS SHOULD HAVE TAUGHT BHUTTO THE LESSON THAT AN ARTIFICIAL BODY COULD NOT BE KEPT TOGETHER BY FORCE, BUT EVIDENTLY IT HAD NOT FOR TROUBLE WAS NOW GROWING IN BALUCHISTAN. BHUTTO HAD GONE BACK ON ALL HIS PROMISES AND AGREEMENTS WITH FRONTIER AREAS AND MADE UNFAVORABLE APPOINTMENTS THERE. THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT PAKISTAN WOULD TAKE STEPS TO

EASE THE TENSION BECAUSE THEY HAD CLOSE TIES TO THE BALUCH PEOPLE AND FEARED THAT ANY OPEN CONFLICT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO KEEP LOCAL.

4. THE SENATOR ASKED ABOUT CHURCH ISSUE, MENTIONING THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY HIS CONSTITUENTS TO RAISE IT WITH THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT. US SUPPORTERS ARE WILLING TO RAISE A NEW SUM OF MONEY AND SUBMIT ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND LOCATIONS PLANS FOR A NEW CHURCH TO AFGHAN GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVAL AND ALSO ASSURE THE GOVERNMENT THAT NO "ABUSES" AS TO PROSELYTIZATION WILL TAKE PLACE. SENATOR

PERCY POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT EISENHOWER HAD BEEN GIVEN ASSURANCES BY THEN PRIME MINISTER DAUD FOR FIRST CHURCH AND DID NAIM THINK THIS NEW ARRANGMENT WAS POSSIBLE? NAIM SAID THAT DESTRUCTION OF THE CHURCH HAD BEEN VERY BAD THING TO DO AND EX-PRIME MINISTER SHAFIQ'S MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO GET SUPPORT OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES. HE HAD DECEIVED THE KING

SO THAT HE DID NOT INTERFERE. THE GOVERNMENT NOW WANTS TO REPAIR DAMAGE AS IT RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BUT SOME TIME HAD TO PASS FIRST AND PERHAPS IN A YEAR OR SO SOME AGREEMENT COULD BE MADE. SENATOR PERCY CLOSED WITH THE REMINDER THAT FOR MANY AMERICANS THE CHURCH ISSUE WAS SYMBOL OF AFGHAN ATTITUDES AND REPAIR OF DAMAGE DONE WOULD BE LOOKED UPON WITH GREAT FAVOR.

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